

bird occupies pp. 136-139 of the book named in the beginning of this note. The specimen which I have selected as the type of *cairnsi* is in Mr. Brewster's collection; it is a ♂, in full dress, and was collected by Mr. Cairns.—ELLIOTT COUES, Washington, D. C.

Dendroica cærulea vs. **Dendroica rara**.—*Sylvia cærulea* WILSON (Am. Orn. II, 1810, 141, etc.), the earliest name for the Cerulean Warbler, is unfortunately preoccupied by *Sylvia cærulea* LATHAM (Index Orn. II, 1790, 540), which is a synonym of *Polioptila cærulea* (LINN.); hence, No. 658, of the A. O. U. Check-List becomes *Dendroica rara* (WILSON) (*Sylvia rara*, WILSON, Am. Orn. III, 1811, 119, pl. 27, fig. 2).—ROBERT RIDGWAY, Washington, D. C.

Note on the Genus Lucas of Bartram.—The names given to many North American birds by William Bartram in his 'Travels,' orig. ed. 1791, are likely to raise nomenclatural questions until we come to some conclusion whether they are to be accepted or rejected. At present our usage wavers. The A. O. U. rejects most of his names, on the ground that he was not a strict binomialist; yet it accepts the term *Aphelocoma floridana* for the Jay named *Corvus floridanus* by Bartram, Trav., p. 291. Let us at least be consistent, if we cannot be just! With regard to generic names, if Bartram was not very orthodox in binomiality, neither was Brisson, whose heterodoxy in this particular does not prevent us from adopting his genera; and the jewel of consistency requires us to treat both these authors alike. On p. 290bis of this book Bartram names the genus *Lucar*, with formal indication of its type species, *L. lividus*. This brings the case distinctly within our rules regarding generic names, whether properly 'characterized' or not, and disposes of the apparent objection that it is a *nomen nudum*. For this bird is of course the well-known Catbird, Bartram's specific name of which is the obvious origin of *Turdus lividus*, Wilson, 1810. Bartram's *lividus* is antedated by *carolinensis* Linn., 1766; but his *Lucar* antedates *Galeoscoptes* Cab., 1850. As the Catbird is now removed from the genus *Mimus*, its only tenable name would appear to be *Lucar carolinensis* Coues, Pr. Phila. Acad., 1875, p. 349.—ELLIOTT COUES, Washington, D. C.

Breeding of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) on Long Island, N. Y.—On the 20th of March, 1896, I heard a Carolina Wren in a swamp near my home in Roslyn, Queen's Co., N. Y. Knowing it to be rare on Long Island I decided to watch it as closely as possible, hoping it might have a mate.

The village of Roslyn is situated at the head of Hampstead Harbor, and is shut in by hills on three sides. There are three ponds in the village, a few hundred feet apart, with swamp land between, and being in a row, one above the other, they divide the village in two parts. Between the highest pond and the second one is a swamp three or four acres in

area, where I first heard the Wren, and where he stayed most of the time for several weeks. Every day I could hear his *pickin' cherries, pickin' cherries, pickin' cherries, pickin'*, or *teakettle, teakettle, teakettle, whee-ha, whee-ha, whee-ha*, but the bird was very shy for a long time; in fact, till the nest was built. Starting from the swamp, he would make a complete circuit of the village every day, but apparently never left the valley.

Early in June I noticed that he seemed to stick to one locality most of the time, so I did a little exploring on his account, but could find no signs of a nest or a mate. The property on which the bird seemed to be located being occupied by people with whom I was not acquainted, I felt a little delicate about asking to go over the place more than once, so I asked Mr. Lewis H. West, who owns the place, to ask his tenants if they would not watch the Wren and try to find the nest. "Why, yes," they told him, "the birds have their nest in the roof of the well." This was about the 25th of June.

We found the nest in one corner of the roof of the well, about ten feet from the ground. The well is less than forty feet from the house, and is used daily. One of the birds left the nest when we went to see it, but stayed close by on a hemlock till we left.

I did not have a chance to visit the nest again till the 10th of July, when I found three young birds in the nest, well feathered. The mother bird was feeding them at the time, and was not at all shy, alighting on the lattice work around the well, with a small green worm in her bill, and waiting till we withdrew.

I did not keep track of the young birds after that, but heard the old ones nearly every day for a long time. On Nov. 3, I heard two calling to each other, one on the hill, one in the swamp. The last time I heard anything of them was Nov. 22.

There can be no possible doubt as to the identification of the bird, for Mr. West and I both were within six feet of them twice, and I have often watched them at short distances with a field-glass, while the song itself is a pretty safe guide with that bird.

I have good reason to believe that this is the first record of the actual breeding of the Carolina Wren on Long Island.—CHAS. E. CONKLIN, Roslyn, Queen's Co., N. Y.

A Remarkable Nest of the Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*).—On April 23, 1896, I noticed a Tufted Titmouse with its mouth full of building materials, and upon following it closely saw it fly into a very large mass of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*). When it appeared again after depositing the nesting materials I was very much surprised to find that there was no hollow whatever where the moss was growing. It was followed by its mate, and made ten trips to the tree in less than fifteen minutes. Having had a good deal of experience with this species when nesting I knew it was characteristic of this bird to carry building materials to the nest even *after* the eggs were laid. I resolved to climb the tree